Harris Survey

## Wajority the CIA

By Louis Harris

BY A 47 to . 27 per cent plurality.

Americans favor "making the Central." Intelligence Agency more accountable to civilian authorities, but not changing the way it is now run," according to the resulls of the latest Harris Survey

EBy 80 to 6 per cent, a large majority of those surveyed rejects the notion of abolishing the CIA and leaving the U.S. with no foreign intelligence agency."

A 45 to 34 per cent plurality also opposes "abolishing the CIA, but starting." a new foreign intelligence agency with: proper civilian controls and sale

THE RESULTS of this survey, conducted recently among a cross-section of 1,403 adults nationwide, make it clear that Americans are opposed to the abolition of the CIA, altho they support steps to make the security agency more accountable to the elected officials in government. By 43 to 31 per cent, a plurality would also support a move to cout in a civilian head of the CIA, but not abolishing it.".

On a number of specific areas, how tries and are not involved with spying ever, those surveyed are critical of the or violence."

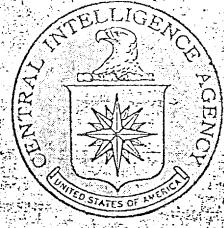
In the last year, the public has given On a number of specific areas, how-

By 74 to 11 per cent, a majority believes "it was wrong for the CIA to be i veys, but that criticism has not been; involved in the assassination attempts of... foreign leaders."

By 54 to 29 per cent, a majority also believes "it was wrong for the CIA. to have spied on Americans here at home during the Viet Nam war."

By 49 to 21 per cent, a plurality agrees with the charge that "the trouble with the CIA is that it got out of control of civilian authorities."

And by 65 to 18 per cent, a sizable majority believes that "in the future,"



A symbol on the rise:

the CIA must be monitored more closely by Congress and the White House."

But by a convincing majority, 52 to 24 per cent, those surveyed reject the charge that "if it had not been exposed, the CIA might have taken over the country." To the contrary, Americans value maintaining the CIA despite some errors it has committed recently. Also:

By 78 to 12 per cent, a solid majority believes. "it is very important that the U.S. have the best foreign intelligence agency in the world, even if it does make some mistakes."

By 71 to 13 per cent, a majority also believes that "any successful foreign intelligence agency must be operated in secrecy."

♠ By 52 to 28 per cent, the public is: worried that "so many secrets of the CIA have been made public that the future ability of the CIA to operate well has now been threatened."

By 40 to 27 per cent, a plurality is convinced that "most of the CIA's activities involve serious study of other coun-

the CIA negative marks in Harris Surrising despite more recent disclosures about the agency's alleged wrong-doing. The Harris Survey asked its respon-

"How would you rate the job the Central Intelligence Agency [CIA] has done as the chief source of foreign intelligence for the U.S. government-excellent, pretty good, only fair, or poor?"

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institution in the last year, the number of Americans who give it a los tive rating has risen 5 points, although agency's negative marks also have risen 3 points. Its ratings tend to peradel those? of the Federal Bureau of Livestigation. and other federal law-enforcement agen-

THE VARIOUS bodies that have been investigating the CIA have not been building enormous reservoirs of publicconfidence. The cross-section was asked-

"There have been several recent investigations of the CIA. Do you feel the [read list] investigations have been fair: and just, too harsh on the CIA, or a whitewash of the CIA?

The result of the probes of CIA hasbeen to produce public sentinent for a: change in the way the foreign intelligence agency does its job. But it is also: apparent that the public does not want ag change so drastic that it would-leopard-s ize current CIA operations or ead to the agency's abolition.

Instead, the public appears to wantthe CIA to go about its business, most of: which is secret, but with greater accountability to Congress and the Wnite House

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According to Mr. Thuermer's gal, this was the best write-up and copy of the Harris Poll. (Will distribute, if ok!

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